EPI Update for Friday, January 18, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Influenza update
- Recommendations use of influenza antiviral medications
- New Tdap School Entry Requirement (7th grade)
- Disease eradication vs. elimination
- Watch your step!
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Influenza update

Influenza activity still remains high and widespread in Iowa; however, slight decreases occurred in outpatient visits due to influenza-like illness and flu associated hospitalizations. The number of schools with high absenteeism due to flu-like illness has increased.

The frequently asked questions (FAQ) have been answered, visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx?pg=FluFaq . For recent flu activity report, visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

Recommendations for use of influenza antiviral medications

A summary of the recommendations for use of antiviral medications for influenza has been re-issued by CDC. These recommendations cover both treatment and prophylactic use of available antiviral medications. No changes have been made from previous year's recommendations. For the full summary of clinical recommendations, visit: www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm

New Tdap School Entry Requirement (7th grade)

Starting the 2013-2014 school year, Iowa students entering 7th are required to have a booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. Incoming 7th graders born on or after 9/15/2000 will need documentation of this booster. Note that 2 brands of Tdap vaccine available in the United States are licensed for use in ages 10 years of age and older.

For the following information -

- Iowa Immunization Code (To be published February 6, 2013)
- Tdap Secondary School Requirement Fact Sheet
- <u>Immunization Partner Letter</u>
- Tdap Secondary School Requirement Questions and Answers

visit www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=Laws.

Disease eradication vs. elimination

Only two diseases – polio and dranunculiasis – have been identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eradication (the complete worldwide interruption of the

disease). However, several diseases have been identified for elimination (meaning the interruption of a disease in a certain geographic area).

Lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis have the potential to be eliminated from large parts of the tropics. Also the island of Hispaniola (Haiti and Dominican Republic) has the potential to eliminate malaria since these countries are the only location of endemic malaria in the Caribbean islands. If malaria elimination was successful there, it might lead to better strategies for malaria elimination elsewhere. For more information, visit: www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMra1200391

Watch your step!

Cold-to-warm-and-back: this kind of weather can lead to wet sidewalks, streets and parking lots that turn to ice when the sun goes down. Injuries from falls on slick surfaces can range from minor bruises to broken bones or concussions.

Falls are the leading cause of brain injuries in Iowa and according to the CDC, falls are the leading cause of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the U.S. People over age 75 have the highest rates of TBI-related hospitalizations and death. For more information about preventing falls in seniors, visit www.cdc.gov/features/OlderAmericans.

Those who must venture out on slippery surfaces should be prepared to:

- Wear treaded, non-slip or rubber-soled boots or shoes
- Walk on the grass when the sidewalks are slippery
- Sprinkle ice-melt products or cat litter on slippery steps
- Take your time and slow down

Meeting announcements and training opportunitiesNone

Have a healthy and happy (and slip-free) week! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology Iowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736